



**BUTTE
COUNTY
FARM BUREAU**

Serving Agriculture For More Than 80 Years

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AUG 21 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 10, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814
Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

But farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,

Ralph Cassady
President

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Wally Herger
Governor Gray Davis
State Sen. Tim Leslie
Assembly Member Sam Aanestad
Assembly Member Richard Dickerson
Butte County Supervisors